

church and the world that the Christ-life is a living glorious reality, that in these young hearts so ardent and so earnest there is a something which others lack, a power that moves them to which the world is a stranger, an enjoyment and appreciation of something which they do not and cannot experience.

Young people who have always thought that to be a Christian meant simply to be good realize that it means more, that it is not passive but active. This is one of the most blessed results because it will disperse the misunderstanding which keeps so many away from Christ. There are many, God alone knows how many, who believe in Christianity who yet deliberately ostracize themselves from church-fellowship and cast away this hope because they cannot see in Christians those constant results which the claims of Christianity would lead them to expect and they conclude from this that to a certain extent all Christians are hypocrites. When Christians act as they really believe and feel this delusion will disappear.

5. The grand thing about it all is that these results are accomplished in youth. Before the wild oats is sown, before the character is formed, before the claims of habit are forged, upon the youthful soul so pure and white is impressed the image of the Master. Youthful vigor and enthusiasm is expended in the kingdom not of darkness but of light.

Surely an organization of young people, fruitful in such blessed results should be bidden God-speed in its work. But this is not all. It is a natural law that to every action there is an equal and opposite reaction and equally natural and just as infallible is the law that "whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." What a young people's organization does for others, only equals what is done for themselves. Every blow struck for righteousness and truth in its reaction forges a link in the chain of habit, which when wholly forged cannot be broken by all the powers of hell. The seed sown in youthful hearts by these societies is going to bear fruit. Mark you their attitude toward the great

evils of the day and read for yourself the portent of this movement. It is not yet time for the full harvest but already its power is felt in political and social circles. Then let the young people organize. Inexperience and lack of numbers are mole-hills not mountains in the way. Numbers are not so essential as zeal, and experience can only come through practice.

There is cause for rejoicing in the fact that the movement is spreading so rapidly and so successfully in our own church. Reader are you doing your part to aid it? Now with our own national organization, our own name and literature to bind us together and with all the good we may receive by being in touch with other societies in the Y. P. S. C. E. let us push the work with energy and do our part in exemplifying the true Christ spirit by making the world better in every possible way.

### Sisters' Department.

#### WHAT IS A WREATH TO BROWS OF DUST.

MAKE me no wreaths for brows of dust,  
And say no late words o'er my grave.  
On my starved heart, oh, lay no flowers  
That were withheld in living hours.  
What power has earth to understand  
When warm love clasps its icy hand?

Then let no tender message come  
When my poor lips are stricken dumb;  
And lest I go so far away  
My dull ears cannot hear you say,  
"I love you," speak those words to-day!

MARION MANVILLE.

—From Demorest.

#### SILENT INFLUENCES.

BY LAURA TEETER.

Brother McFaden's "Christ in the School Room" in EVANGELIST number 44, suggests a volume of thought on the above subject. I believe, as may be inferred from his writing, that, silent influences are very powerful especially upon the minds of children. It would be well for us to remember at all times these words of the poet:

"His preaching much, but more his practice wrought,  
A living sermon of the truths he taught."

I have been wondering if we might not all be called silent influences, or have we any influence at all? Many people seem to think because they do not particularly *try* to influence any one, either for good or bad, that they are not accountable for the influence they may have over others, but are we

not taught that we should not put a "stumbling block" in the way of a brother lest we cause him to fall?

Have you ever noticed what a great influence a very little act may sometimes have? Even a happy look and bright smile only on the part of some one joining a group of discouraged, discontented persons, has often changed the course of their thoughts so much as to make the whole day seem more pleasant and less tiresome for them, while if some one, with a frown and expression of disapproval joins them, a spirit of rebellion is at once aroused in the whole group, and from that moment whatever they undertake to do seems to go "wrong."

I have noticed also the great influences of students at school. When one always tries to do what he thinks is right; has his lessons always prepared; is always punctual at recitation, and ready for any work given him, he is sure to have a number of imitators which may do them good, even though they can never equal him. And the tidiness of his person, room, and desk, exerts an influence equally noticeable.

Such things may seem small and unimportant to some, but "it is the many small things that make the great."

Children are very observant of these small matters. I know a bright eyed, ambitious little boy of five years, living some distance from his grandparents, and from the Brethren church. He, with his parents, sometimes attends church and spends the Sunday at grandma's, and frequently meets the preachers there. He thus formed a strong attachment to one in particular whom he always called "grandma's preacher," and held as his ideal man. He was going to be a preacher when he grew to be a man, and in all his talk and actions he tried to imitate "grandma's preacher," and wanted to be compared to him, but suddenly his ideal fell, in his estimation. He, with his mamma, was attending the Ohio State Conference, and being tired and fretful one evening after conference had adjourned, as children sometimes are, perhaps was looking for something to complain of. As they were driving through the town they met his ideal preacher with a cigar in his mouth. "Well," he exclaimed ind